

Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp, Scale House  
Clay Spur Siding on the Burlington Northern  
Railroad  
4 miles northwest of Osage  
Weston County  
Wyoming

HAER No. WY-23-P

HAER  
WYO,  
23-OSAG.V,  
1-P-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
P. O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp, Scale House

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Location: Clay Spur Siding on the Burlington Northern Railroad,  
4 miles northwest of Osage in Weston County, Wyoming

Dates of Construction: ca. 1932

Present Owner: N. L. Baroid  
Alzada Star Route  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Present Use: Abandoned; site to be razed

Significance: The Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp is associated  
with the early 20th century bentonite mining industry  
in Wyoming and the United States. The Clay Spur  
Bentonite District was the center of the pioneer  
Wyoming bentonite industry and remained the premier  
Wyoming producing district until reserves began to  
dwindle in the 1950s. The plant embodies the  
distinctive engineering technology of the bentonite  
industry. The camp also reflects early twentieth  
century company town architecture with simple  
buildings and floor plans that could be quickly and  
cheaply constructed and adapted to many different uses.

The scale house is located southeast of the mill,  
along the main access road. It is a small one-story  
wood frame building (9.5 feet northwest-southeast by  
6.5 feet southwest-northeast) with a gable roof. The  
roof and exterior walls are covered with corrugated tin  
sheeting. There is a door on the northwest elevation  
and three four-light windows in the remaining  
elevations. The interior retains a 10-ton commercial  
motor truck scale, manufactured by the Howe Scale  
Company of Rutland, Vermont. The scale was installed  
sometime prior to 1940. There is a wooden weighing  
platform set in a concrete foundation just off the  
southeast elevation of the building.

Historian: Robert Rosenberg  
Historical Consultant

July 1989

NOTE: For more information, see Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp,  
HAER No. WY-23.